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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 COLOMBO 001286

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [EAID](#) [PGOV](#) [CE](#) [NO](#) [LTTE](#)

SUBJECT: LTTE STIFFS NORWEGIANS ON CEASEFIRE TALKS, PTOMS

Classified By: AMBASSADOR JEFFREY J. LUNSTEAD FOR REASON 1.4 (D).

11. (C) Summary: The LTTE told Norwegians they will not hold talks on ceasefire with Government until it disarms all paramilitaries. The Tigers also said they were not willing to change any part of the PTOMS agreement. The two sides continue to work with the SLMM to solve the transportation issue. Co-Chair Ambassadors will meet President on Monday to ask her to ensure Government compliance with CFA. End Summary.

LTTE on Ceasefire Talks: No

12. (C) Norwegian charge Oddvar Laegried visited Kilinocchi July 20 for talks with LTTE on ceasefire and PTOMS, meeting with the LTTE's Tamilchelvan and other LTTE officials. On the PTOMS, Laegried conveyed the GSL view that stressed the positive side of the Supreme Court ruling--that the Court had validated the President's ability to enter into an agreement with the LTTE and upheld the legality of the CeaseFire Agreement (CFA). The GSL (Jayantha Dhanapala) had told Laegried that they expected the Court to lift all of its interim stay orders after the GSL gave its responses. At Dhanapala's request, Laegried asked if the LTTE would agree to change the seat of the PTOMS Regional Committee from Kilinocchi to Trincomalee. Tamilchelvan's response was that the LTTE was not willing to change anything in the PTOMS.

Same on the Ceasefire

13. (C) Laegried then referred to the statement issued by Co-chairs in Colombo the day before calling for both sides to take steps to strengthen the CFA and to sit down together to talk about ways to do so. Laegried strongly urged a meeting with the GSL to discuss the CFA. Tamilchelvan refused, saying such a meeting would only be possible after the GSL disarmed all paramilitary groups. It was the GSL's responsibility to provide security for unarmed LTTE political cadres. When Laegried mentioned the portion of the Co-chairs statement calling on the LTTE to stop all killings by its members, there was no response.

A Small Opening?

14. (C) During lunch with LTTE Peace Secretariat Head Pulidevan (Tamilchelvan did not attend), Laegried continued to press the gravity of the situation and the need for the LTTE to sit and talk with the GSL. Pulidevan said that he was willing to meet GSL Peace Secretariat head Jayantha Dhanapala--on one condition, that the issue of security for transport of LTTE cadres be resolved first. Laegried said that SLMM head Haukland was working on that very issue and would present a compromise proposal to both sides. Laegried said that if the SLMM were able to solve this problem, and if Pulidevan then met Dhanapala, there might be an opening to move toward broader engagement.

A Different Tamilchelvan

15. (C) Laegried commented that Tamilchelvan, whom he has met many times, has been different in the last few meetings--stiff and unsmiling. Rather than engaging in a genuine dialogue as earlier, he now spoke in predictable set pieces.

Government Disappointed

16. (C) Laegried relayed the results of his meetings to Dhanapala, who was predictably disappointed. Dhanapala also said that he was disappointed that the Co-chairs statement called on the GSL to disarm paramilitaries. He argued that the Karuna group was not a paramilitary under the terms of the CFA, since it did not exist at the time the CFA was signed.

Co-Chairs to Meet CBK

17. (C) Co-chairs will call on President Kumaratunga Monday July 25 to discuss cease fire issues. They will tell

Kumaratunga that they are concerned about the CFA, which is coming under increasing strain. They will ask that she take action to ensure that the Government is abiding by the CFA.

Comment

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18. (C) The response from the LTTE was predictable but nonetheless disappointing. It is not clear to us how hard the Norwegian charge was willing to push the LTTE. They need to hear a clear message--that maintenance of the CFA is the responsibility of both parties. Dhanapala's contention that essentially the GSL has no obligation to deal with the Karuna group is also disheartening. Whether or not they fall under the paramilitary provision of the CFA, the GSL is allowing (at least) or assisting (at most) an armed group to operate out of its territory and to murder LTTE members. Jayantha is also supposed to be at the meeting with Kumaratunga; we'll see what he has to say then.

LUNSTEAD